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Addendum

Contents

	Page
President's summary	2
Technology and innovation as effective means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	2

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President's summary

Technology and innovation as effective means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

(Agenda item 6)

1. Under the agenda item, the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD made opening remarks at the meeting.

2. The Director of the UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics then made a presentation, and a panel of two experts shared insights on the opportunities for and challenges of harnessing frontier technologies for sustainable development. The discussion highlighted the role of frontier technologies in helping to address sustainable development objectives and underlined deficiencies in technological capabilities, particularly in developing countries and the least developed countries, as a major obstacle in harnessing the potential of technology. The panel consisted of the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Transformative Technologies and Founder of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Institute for Globally Transformative Technologies, and the Director of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of Ghana.

3. The representatives of many regional groups and many delegates commended UNCTAD on the quality and relevance of the *Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development*. One regional group noted that the report was of interest for all member States. Some delegations expressed satisfaction with discussing technology in the context of UNCTAD work and suggested inclusion of the topic in forthcoming agendas of the Trade and Development Board.

4. One regional group indicated that there was a need to strike a balance regarding investment in frontier technologies for developing countries, to ensure that they became a vehicle for inclusive growth and sustainable development. One delegate suggested that the least developed countries required a strategy for adopting frontier technologies. Another delegate emphasized the importance of actions to support developing countries to avoid making existing technological divides worse.

5. Several delegates highlighted the importance of technology transfer as a fundamental building block for increasing capacity in science, technology and innovation and a prerequisite to harnessing the full potential of frontier technologies. Some delegations suggested that fostering greater entrepreneurial environment within national borders, including for women, was required to ensure access to technologies was effective and sustainable.

6. Some delegations noted the need for ethical, economic and social challenges caused by rapid technological change to be considered by all relevant stakeholders and to provide substance in the form of national and regional strategies. Some delegates emphasized that, in addition to aid, private investment should also constitute a means of resource mobilization to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.